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30 November 1992

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Forty-seventh session
THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 93 (a)

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION AND TO YOUTH, AGEING, DISABLED PERSONS AND THE FAMILY

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Finland, France, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Kenya, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

The convening of a world summit for social development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 46/139 of 17 December 1991 and Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 of 30 May 1991 and resolution 1992/27 of 30 July 1992,

Having considered the report of the Special Representative on the consultations requested by Economic and Social Council decision 1991/230 and contained in document E/1992/80,

Recalling its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, in which it adopted the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, which includes as one of its principal themes the need to strengthen the mutually reinforcing relationship between economic growth and human welfare,

Recalling also its resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987, by which it endorsed the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,

Welcoming the support expressed for the world summit for social development at the tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, convened in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1 to 6 September 1992,

Conscious that increased international cooperation for economic and social development would significantly contribute to the strengthening of international peace and security,

Convinced of the need for the enhancement of the social component of sustainable development to achieve economic growth with social justice,

Reaffirming the right and responsibility of each State to determine freely its own priorities, policies and objectives for social development in accordance with their constitutional, legal systems and social conditions,

Conscious of the need to address ways and means for the elimination of widespread poverty and the full enjoyment of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights as interrelated goals,

Acknowledging the need for an integrated approach in the fields of social and economic development in the United Nations system to deploy more effectively the widespread experience of the system in these areas,

Stressing that poverty, unemployment and social integration are closely interrelated in all societies, with a particularly profound impact on developing countries,

Convinced that a world summit for social development should contribute to efforts by all countries to foster sustainable development and to promote policies against poverty and unemployment in all societies,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Special Representative for their efforts in carrying out a comprehensive process of consultations on this matter;

2. Welcomes with satisfaction the report of the Secretary-General on the positive outcome of the consultations on the possibility of convening a world summit for social development;

3. Decides to convene a world summit for social development at the level of heads of State and/or Government to be held in early 1995;

4. Accepts with deep appreciation the generous offer of the Government of Denmark to host the summit;

5. Decides that the summit shall have the following objectives:

(a) To further the objectives of the Charter of the United Nations, as stated in Article 55, to promote "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development" as well as "solutions to international economic, social, health and related problems" with particular focus on social development aspects;

(b) To express a shared world-wide commitment to put the needs of people at the centre of development and of international cooperation as a major priority of international relations;

(c) To stimulate international cooperational at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, through governmental, private and non-governmental initiatives in order to assist in the implementation of nationally appropriate, effective and efficient social policies and formulate strategies which enable all citizens to be actively engaged in these policies;

(d) To formulate strategies on goals, priority actions and policies that could be taken at the national, regional and international levels to address, in the different development realities, core issues of shared universal concern in the field of social development, giving particular attention to the needs of the least developed countries;

(e) To create international awareness of and address the modalities to attain the necessary balance between economic efficiency and social justice in a growth-oriented, equitable and sustainable development environment in accordance with nationally defined priorities;

(f) To address, in creative ways, the interaction between the social function of the State, market responses to social demands and the imperatives of sustainable development;

(g) To identify common problems of socially marginalized and disadvantaged groups and promote the integration of those groups into society, highlighting the need for societies to equalize opportunities for all members;

(h) To promote programmes to ensure legal protection, foster effective social welfare programmes and enhance education and training for different groups in all societies, including the marginalized and disadvantaged groups;

(i) To assist in ensuring a more effective delivery of social services for the more disadvantaged sectors of society;

(j) To highlight the need to mobilize resources for social development at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(k) To make appropriate recommendations regarding more effective action by the United Nations system in the sphere of social development, in particular measures and policies for the revitalization of the Commission for Social Development;

6. Decides, taking into account the objectives set out in the present resolution, that the core issues affecting all societies to be addressed by the summit are:

(a) The enhancement of social integration, particularly of the more disadvantaged and marginalized groups;

(b) Alleviation and reduction of poverty;

(c) Expansion of productive employment;

7. Decides to establish a Preparatory Committee open to the participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the General Assembly;

8. Decides also that the Preparatory Committee shall hold an organizational session for one week in April 1993, and at the level of personal representatives of the heads of State and/or Government, three additional substantive sessions in 1994 of no more than ten working days each at the United Nations Headquarters in New York;

9. Decides that the Preparatory Committee, at its organizational session shall elect, with due regard to equitable geographical representation, a Bureau on which the host country, Denmark shall be ex officio member of the Bureau;

10. Decides that the Preparatory Committee shall:

(a) Consider the reports submitted to it by the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system on matters relating to the world summit for social development;

(b) Draft the provisional agenda of the summit, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution;

(c) Prepare the draft decisions for the summit and submit them to the summit for consideration and adoption;

(d) Adopt other appropriate decisions relevant to the successful preparation, outcome and follow-up of the summit;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to establish an ad hoc secretariat unit, including personnel of the relevant agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, to assist in the preparatory process and the substantive work of the Preparatory Committee;

12. Recommends that the Commission for Social Development give consideration to the agenda of the world summit for social development at its thirty-third session in 1993 and that it reports to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1993;

13. Recommends also that the Economic and Social Council at its high-level segment of the substantive session in 1993 consider the theme "World Summit for Social Development";

14. Requests the regional commissions to include in their programme of work for 1993 the world summit for social development, with particular emphasis on the social situation in their respective regions, including proposals, and to prepare an integrated report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

15. Requests the organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental organizations in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to contribute fully to the preparations of the summit;

16. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee take full account as appropriate, of the preparations for and the outcome of the 1993 Conference on Human Rights, tne 1994 Conference on Population and Development and of preparations for the 1995 Fourth Conference on Women;

17. Requests the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to contribute in accordance with established practices to the summit and preparatory process as appropriate;

18. Invites the Secretary-General to provide the resources required for initiating the preparatory process of the summit in 1993, including through redeployment;

19. Invites also the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and to mobilize voluntary contributions from public and private sources for the financing of the additional activities required by the preparation and holding of the summit;

20. Decides that the resources of the trust fund should be utilized to finance the participation of the least developed countries in the summit and its preparatory process;

21. Requests the Preparatory Committee to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions on the progress of work of the Committee and the preparations for the summit.

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Agenda item 149

THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ESTONIA AND LATVIA

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

The situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia

The General Assembly,

Guided by the principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to fulfil the obligations they have undertaken under the various international instruments in this field,

Being convinced that respect for human rights is an inalienable component of maintaining and promoting good-neighbourly relations between States,

Taking into account the complaint of alleged violations of human rights with respect to the Russian-speaking population in Estonia and Latvia,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations made by the United Nations fact-finding mission that visited Riga in October 1992 at the invitation of the Government of Latvia,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

1. Notes with concern the existence of certain problems, which involve large groups of population in Estonia and Latvia;

2. Welcomes the cooperation that the Government of Latvia has extended to the United Nations fact-finding mission;

3. Also welcomes the invitation of the Government of Estonia to receive a similar United Nations fact-finding mission and its intention to extend to it its cooperation;

4. Calls upon the States concerned to intensify their efforts on the bilateral level aimed at resolving concerns with regard to the situation of Russian-speaking population on the basis of generally accepted norms of international law in the field of human rights;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to keep Member States informed of the progress in the field of human rights in Estonia and Latvia and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session under the item "Situation of human rights in Estonia and Latvia".

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Albania, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Morocco, Pakistan, Tunisia and Turkey: draft resolution

United Nations Year for Tolerance

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the Charter of the United Nations affirms in its preamble that to practise tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace,

Recalling also that one of the purposes of the United Nations as set forth in the Charter is the achievement of international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Mindful of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and of the International Covenants on Human Rights, 2/

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2100 A (XXI), annex.

Noting with appreciation resolution 5.6 of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, concerning the proclamation of 1995 as the United Nations year for tolerance,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decision 1992/267 of 30 July 1992 and of the note by the Secretary-General, 3/

Bearing in mind its decision 35/424 of 5 December 1980 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 concerning guidelines for international years and anniversaries,

1. Welcomes the initiative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in proclaiming 1995 United Nations year for tolerance;

2. Requests the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare, in cooperation with other interested organizations, his suggestions on the observance of the United Nations year of tolerance and to submit them to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, through the Economic and Social Council,

3. Invites the Economic and Social Council to consider at its next session the question of proclaiming 1995 as the United Nations year for tolerance and to inform the General Assembly of its recommendation at its forty-eighth session,

4. Encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to prepare, in accordance with its General Conference resolution 5.6, a declaration on tolerance;

5. Decides to consider the issue at its forty-eighth session.

3/ A/47/445.

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Togo, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela: draft resolution

Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular resolutions 45/167 and 45/168 of 18 December 1990,

Recalling also that, in its resolution 45/167, the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of that resolution,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/52 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights concerning advisory services in the field of human rights, including its most recent resolution on that subject, 1992/80 of 5 March 1992,

Recalling also Commission on Human Rights resolution 1989/50 of 7 March 1989 and taking note of Commission resolutions 1990/71 of 7 March 1990 and 1991/28 of 5 March 1991 and 1992/40 of 28 February 1992 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion of human rights in the ASEAN-Pacific region,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, 1/

Noting with satisfaction the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights at the regional level under the auspices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the regional intergovernmental organizations,

Reaffirming that regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights may make a major contribution to the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the exchange of information and experience in this field among the regions, within the United Nations system, may be improved,

Bearing in mind that regional instruments should complement the universally accepted human rights standards and that the persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies noted during their third meeting, held at Geneva from 1 to 5 October 1990, 2/ that certain inconsistencies between provisions of international instruments and those of regional instruments might raise difficulties with regard to their implementation,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

2. Welcomes the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Centre for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly in the field of advisory services and technical assistance, public information and education, with a view to exchange any information and experience in the field of human rights;

3. Welcomes also in that respect the close cooperation given by the Centre for Human Rights at the United Nations Secretariat in the organization of regional and subregional training courses or workshops in the field of human rights including, most recently, those that took place at San Remo (Italy), Cairo, Windhoek, Paris, Barcelona (Spain), Valetta, Teheran, Caracas, Brasilia and Santiago, aiming at creating greater understanding of the promotion and protection of human rights issues in the regions and at improving procedures and examining the various systems for the promotion and protection of the universally accepted human rights standards;

1/ A/47/502.

2/ See A/45/636, annex.

4. Stresses the importance of the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights, and renews its appeal to all Governments to consider making use of the possibilities offered by the United Nations under this programme of organizing information and/or training courses at the national level for government personnel on the application of international human rights standards and the experience of relevant international bodies;

5. Invites States in areas where regional arrangements in the field of human rights do not yet exist to consider agreements with a view to the establishment within their respective regions of suitable regional machinery for the promotion and protection of human rights;

6. Requests the Secretary-General, as foreseen in the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, to continue to strengthen exchanges between the United Nations and regional intergovernmental organizations dealing with human rights, and welcomes, in this connection, the fact that the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat will continue to organize national, regional and subregional workshops and training courses for government officials engaged in the administration of justice and in the implementation of the international human rights instruments and that more countries in all regions of the world would develop forms of cooperation and assistance with the Centre for Human Rights, in keeping with their specific needs;

7. Invites the organizers of regional meetings convened in preparation for the World Conference on Human Rights to promote further ratification of and accession to United Nations human rights treaties and the implementation of universally accepted human rights standards;

8. Welcomes the recommendation of the persons chairing or representing the United Nations human rights treaty bodies concerning a possible meeting, during the World Conference on Human Rights, of the persons chairing or representing the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and those chairing or representing each of the principal regional organizations and institutions in the field of human rights, and requests the Preparatory Committee of the World Conference on Human Rights to consider the holding of such a meeting;

9. Requests the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to the most appropriate ways of assisting, at their request, countries of the different regions under the programme of advisory services and to make, where necessary, the relevant recommendations;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session a report on the state of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights and to include therein the results of action taken in pursuance of the present resolution;

11. Decides to consider this question further at its forty-ninth session.

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Agenda item 97 (b)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

The plight of street children

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ as a major contribution to the protection of the rights of all children,

Recalling also the World Declaration and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, 2/ adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children, the World

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1/ Resolution 44/25, annex.

2/ A/45/625, annex.

Declaration on Education for All 3/ adopted at Jomtien in 1990 and chapter 25 of Agenda 21 adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio in 1992,

Reaffirming that children are a particularly vulnerable section of society whose rights require special protection and that children living under especially difficult circumstances, such as street children, deserve special attention, protection and assistance,

Profoundly concerned that the killing of and violence against street children threatens the most fundamental right of all: the right to life,

Recognizing that all children have the right to health, shelter and education, to an adequate standard of living and to freedom from violence and harassment,

Deeply concerned over the growing number of street children world wide and the squalid conditions in which these children are often forced to live,

Recognizing the responsibility of Governments to investigate all cases of offences against children and to punish offenders,

Recognizing also that legislation per se is not enough to prevent violation of human rights, including those of street children, and that Governments should implement their laws and complement legislative measures with effective action, inter alia, in the fields of law enforcement and in the administration of justice,

Welcoming the efforts taken by countries to address the question of street children,

Welcoming also the publicity given to and increased awareness of the plight of street children and to the achievements of non-governmental organizations in promoting their rights and in providng practical assistance to improve their situation and expressing its appreciation of their continued efforts,

Welcoming further the valuable work of the United Nations Children's Fund as well as its National Committees in reducing the suffering of street children,

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3/ Final Report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix 1.

Taking note with appreciation of the important work carried out in this field by the United Nations, in particular the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme,

Bearing in mind the diverse causes of the emergence and marginalization of street children, including poverty, rural-to-urban migration, unemployment, broken families, intolerance and exploitation and that such causes are aggravated by serious socio-economic difficulties,

Recognizing that the prevention and solution of certain aspects of this phenomenon could also be facilitated in the context of economic and social development,

1. Expresses grave concern at the growing number of incidents world wide and reports of street children being involved in and affected by serious crime, drug abuse, violence and prostitution;

2. Urges Governments to continue actively to seek comprehensive solutions to tackle the problems of street children and to take measures to restore their full participation in society and to provide, inter alia, adequate nutrition, shelter, health care and education;

3. Strongly urges Governments to respect fundamental human rights, particularly the right to life, and to take urgent measures to prevent the killing of street children and to combat violence and torture against street children;

4. Emphasizes that strict compliance with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1/ constitutes a significant step towards solving the problems of street children;

5. Calls on all States that have not done so to become parties to the Convention as a matter of priority;

6. Invites the Committee on the Rights of the Child to consider the possibility of a general comment on street children;

7. Recommends that the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other relevant treaty-monitoring bodies bear this growing problem in mind when examining reports from States parties;

8. Invites Governments, United Nations bodies and organizations as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to cooperate with each other and to ensure greater awareness and more effective action to solve the problem of street children by, among other measures, the dissemination of information and the exchange of views;

9. Calls on special rapporteurs, special representatives and working groups of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, within their mandates, to pay particular attention to the plight of street children;

10. Invites the Commission on Human Rights to examine this problem at its forty-ninth session;

11. Decides to consider the question at its forty-eighth session under the item entitled "Human rights questions".

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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Benin, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela: draft resolution

Strengthening of the Centre for Human Rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/135 of 15 December 1989, 45/180 of 21 December 1990, 46/118 of 17 December 1991 and 46/111 of 17 December 1991,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1989/46 of 6 March 1989, 1990/25 of 27 February 1990, 1991/23 of 5 March 1991 and 1992/53 of 3 March 1992 as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 1990/47 of 25 May 1990 and 1991/36 of 31 May 1991,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1989/54 of 7 March 1989 and 1991/22 of 5 March 1991 on the coordinating role of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat within the United Nations system,

Considering that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms is one of the basic purposes of the United Nations enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and an issue of the utmost importance for the Organization,

Recalling that the Secretary-General, in his report on the work of the Organization for 1992, 1/ stated that the "Charter of the United Nations places the promotion of human rights as one of our priority objectives, along with promoting development and preserving international peace and security", an approach which he also applied in his proposals for 1994-1995,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/80 of March 1992 on Advisory Services and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, and recognizing the growing importance of advisory services in the field of human rights for the promotion and strengthening of human rights, as demonstrated by the increasing number of requests from governments for support and technical assistance in the field of human rights,

Recognizing the important role of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat in the promotion, protection and implementation of human rights and the need to provide sufficient human resources to the Centre, particularly in view of the fact that its workload has dramatically increased, while resources have failed to keep pace with the expansion of its responsibilities,

Noting that the difficult financial situation of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat during the biennium 1992-1993 has created considerable obstacles in implementing the various procedures and mechanisms, negatively influenced the servicing by the Secretariat of the bodies concerned and impaired the quality and precision of the reporting,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General, 2/ as well as his previous reports, and taking note of the additional posts for the Centre for Human Rights authorized by the Secretary-General, for an initial period of six months and of those which only replace temporary posts that have been abolished,

Noting that, in spite of recent developments, the disparity between mandates themselves and resources available to carry them out has grown

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/47/1).

2/ A/47/702.

further, as a result of additional mandates given to the Centre for Human Rights by intergovernmental and expert bodies, after the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, and the adoption of that budget,

Noting also that the Assembly, in its resolution 46/185 C (XIX), also requested the Secretary-General, with regard to the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the level of general temporary assistance for section 28, to assure that adequate resources were available during the biennium 1992-1993,

Noting further that the Committee for Programme and Coordination 3/ at its thirty-second session, held from 11 to 22 May 1992, reaffirmed its previous recommendations on the strengthening of the programmes and activities of the Centre, in the context of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997,

Noting that the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in revising estimates for the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/47/7/Add.1) took note of the redeployment of five posts to the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, which will be used to respond to the mandate established by the first special session of the Commission on Human Rights in August 1992,

1. Supports the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and importance of the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat as coordinating unit within the United Nations system of bodies dealing with the promotion and the protection of human rights;

2. Takes note of the statement in the Secretary-General's report on the implications of organizational changes, 4/ that the Secretary-General would propose to use the remaining vacant posts now available in the Secretariat "in the light of new initiatives and emerging mandates and priorities";

3. Emphasizes that, in reviewing the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, adequate staffing, temporary assistance and other resources should be allocated to the Centre for Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat so as to enable it to respond to its increasing workload and to cover its needs in order to carry out all the functions assigned to it, including the preparations for the World Conference on Human Rights as well as the Conference itself;

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/47/16).

4/ A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1, para. 23.

4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources are accorded to the Centre for Human Rights to enable it to carry out, in full and on time, all the mandates, including the additional ones, on the basis of the decisions of intergovernmental and expert bodies;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit an interim report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-ninth session and a final report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the developments relating to the activities of the Centre for Human Rights and on the measures taken to implement the present resolution.